

John Ray Times

Our Core Values: Hope, Perseverance, Trust, Courage, Respect, Responsibility

14th July 2025

Phone: 01376 324107

Email: jrcontact@compassps.uk

Website: www.johnray.compassps.uk



@johnrayjuniors



@ facebook.com/[johnraycompassps](https://www.facebook.com/johnraycompassps)

Online learning links



[Accelerated Reader](#)



[Century Tech](#)



[TT Rockstars](#)



[Nessy](#)

For uniform orders visit: [Absolute Embroidery](#). or visit the shop on Panfield Lane.

Absolute Embroidery will be moving premises. The last day at their current address will be Thursday the 26th June. They will re-open at their new address on Monday 30th June. New address:

Absolute Embroidery Ltd, 286 Broad Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5NW

For information on Food Bank vouchers email: mkeegan@compassps.uk

For second hand uniform requests email: rcottee@compassps.uk

Breakfast club queries email: hwiltshire@compassps.uk

School dinner menus are on our website:

14.07.25 week 1, 01.09.25 week 2, 08.09.25 week 3

[Zones of Regulation](#)

The ZONES of Regulation



[School Attendance Difficulties](#)



[Supporting Anxiety](#)



[My Happy Mind Parent App](#)

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email and authentication code emailed to you in the letter sent on 23.09.24.

Open Afternoon

We look forward to welcoming all current parents to our open afternoon on Wednesday 16th July. At the end of the day, please collect your child as normal and then re-enter the building through the white hall doors. The session will finish at 4:30pm.

Key dates for next academic year

We have started to put together the dates for next academic year and these can be found at the bottom of the newsletter. New dates will be added throughout the year.

Saying goodbye to Y6

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all for the Y6 performances. As a reminder, performances are taking place on:

Tuesday 15th July at 1:45 and 4:30 for 6L and 6G
Thursday 17th July at 1:45 and 4:30 for 6O and 6R.

On their performance day, teachers are happy for the children to stay in school after the end of the usual school day rather than going home and coming back for 4:30. Please provide your child with an additional snack to eat after school on that day. If however, you would prefer for them to leave school at the normal time of 3:25, please email class teachers.

As the play is set in a school, we have most of the props and costumes required. If your child needs anything specific, they will come home tomorrow with a slip showing what is needed. There will be no need for anyone to buy anything and children will already have what is required.

If you are coming along to the performance, please enter through the white hall doors opposite the bus stop in Notley Road. If pre-school children are coming along to watch with you, it would be appreciated if they only came to the afternoon performance. There is no need to book a place or request a ticket.

On Friday 18th July, children can bring in a spare shirt to enable their friends to sign it. This will need to be in addition to the one they are wearing. We have also arranged for the children to have a water fight on our playground on the last day so a towel and spare clothes would be helpful especially if you travel home from school in the car or on public transport. The PTA have kindly funded an ice-cream van to come along too – children will not need any money for this as this has already been paid for.

On Friday 18th July we will be providing a 'pizza day' as a farewell to our Year 6 pupils. This will be free to all Year 6 pupils. For full details please [click here](#).

Finally, as we have done previously, Y6 will be leaving a few minutes later on the last day of term so we can send them off in style. Please join us on the playground to wish them well.

End of year pupil reports

Reports were sent out to Parents/Carers on Thursday 10th July via the MCAS App. Please could you make sure that you have downloaded the App and are able to log in. If you need support setting up the App please contact Mrs Wiltshire or Miss Vickers in the school office.

If you have not received your child's report, please contact Mrs Wiltshire by calling the school office.

Timings of the school day from September 2025

Currently our gates open from 8.35am in the morning and remain open until they are locked at 8.45am.

From September, we are considering opening the gates 5 minutes later at 8.40am with gates being locked at 8.50am. This change would start in September. We welcome feedback from parents which can be given by adding your views to the form below. Alternatively, please contact the school office.

The form below will accept responses until 4pm on Wednesday 16th July.

[Consultation – timings of the school day](#)

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

To allow year 3s time to settle in, we are asking for children in years 4, 5 and 6 to come into school at **09:45**. If it is difficult for you to support us with this, please contact the school office.

Free Summer Events for Families in Mid Essex

Looking for free things to do with the kids this summer? The *Free Family-Friendly Events in Mid Essex* guide is packed with activities across Braintree, Chelmsford, and Maldon. You can explore the full list of events and updates online. Printed copies are also available from the school office.

📖 Digital booklet: [Mid Essex Summer Events Booklet](#)

🌐 Full guide: [Mid Essex Summer Events Online Guide](#)

Tuck Shop

From September our tuck shop will run every day. The tuck shop will consist of fruit, orange juice and apple juice only. Each item will cost 30p. It would be helpful if your child could have the correct change.

In-school music lessons



Music lessons
Every Wednesday

John Ray Music

Learn instruments and have fun with friends. We have set fun goals for the development of the children under our care. We aim to work collaboratively with parents to help develop music both at home and in school. Practice is important and pupils can perform at the students concert each year.

Our lessons are every Wednesday during school time. We offer group lessons at £7 per week or one to one at £16 subject to availability. Lessons are paid per term. Don't miss out!

Our music club operates
30 mins lessons
09:00 to 15:00
Every Wednesday at John Ray Juniors. For more info email hello@braintremusiclessons.co.uk

07802 421677

ENROLL NOW

and become a part of our music club

www.braintremusiclessons.co.uk hello@braintremusiclessons.co.uk

About Us

Join the schools awesome music club run by Braintree Music Lessons! Learn guitar, piano, drums and singing. It's super fun and for all year groups.

Learn to strum cool guitar chords and play your favourite songs. Tinkle the ivories and create beautiful melodies, it's magical. Bang those drums and make some noise, rhythm is key. Belt your favourite song in a singing group, singing is power and confidence building. Get creative with music today.

CREATIVE

Reading books

Please return any reading books to your child's class teacher ASAP.

SEN Local Offer

Our SEN Local Offer is amended and published at the end of each academic year. It has the information on provision and processes across the school and the SENCo contact details: [John Ray Junior School - SEND Local Offer \(compassps.uk\)](#).

SEND Local Offer Newsletter

There are lots of activities and events for children with SEND on the Essex Local Offer and from the Local Offer website – sign up here to read more: [Stay up to date with the Essex Local Offer newsletter | Essex Local Offer.](#)

This includes our New POP Essex website and location: [POP Essex • SEN Stay & Play And Respite In Braintree, Essex \(pop-essex.org\)](#).

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Don't forget we would love to hear about any children who have been awarded badges or certificates for activities they do outside of school. Please email class teachers with your child's achievements.

Swimming: Amy (6L) 100m, Rex (4B) 100m, Ruby (4B) water skills 1 and 2



Football: Max (5B) player of the match

Kung Fu: James (5W) white sash, Isaac (5B) green sash, Harry (5B) yellow/orange sash, Quinn (5B) orange / green sash.



Karate: Owen (4T) gold medal, Jasper (6R) bronze and silver medals

Performing arts: Maddie (3P) 1 year award

Paddle boarding: Lilly (4CB)

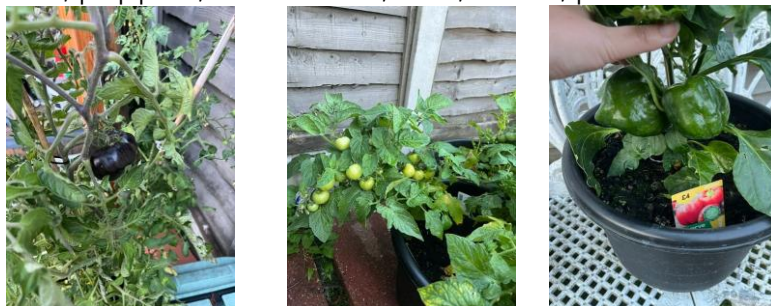
Dancing: Johanna (3P) 2nd place, Bella-Rose (4CB), Rosie (4CB), Amelija (4CB) participated in a dancing show case, Bella-Rose (4CB), Elana (3W), Liana (3W), Isla (3W) all danced at the Notley fete

Running: Jake (6G) took part in the 5K Race for Life

Hockey: Xavier (5K), Alex (5K) 1st place in a tournament
 Brownies: Ellie-Rose (4T) camping badge
 Gymnastics: Amalie (4T) gymnastics.

Albie in 5W has been spending his time growing plants at home.

He has a little veg patch at home and he has planted them, fed them and watered them all by himself. There are tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, chilli, chard, potatoes and onions. Fantastic Albie!



Oscar in 5W and Oliver in 3D ran the 5k mud run for cancer race for life on Sunday. Both raised over £100 each! They ran for their close friend who has just beaten cancer aged 9.

Lilah in 5W took part in a theatre production of Alice in Wonderland.



Stars of the Week

Each week, class teachers will choose a member of their class to be star of the week. Children who are chosen will have their name added in this section of the newsletter.

3C: Zion	4B: Reggie	5B: Seren	6G:
3D: Zek	4CB: Lilly	5E: Samma	6L: The whole class
3P: Ivanna	4J: Roxy	5K: Rita, Amelia, Jayden	6O: Franklin
3W: Julia	4T: Vinnie	5W: Daisy	6R: -

PE Days

Children need to come into school on PE days in their PE kit. Children will need an outdoor PE kit i.e., black tracksuit bottoms (or shorts in warmer weather), white T-shirt and a black fleece / tracksuit top.

We are noticing more children coming to school on PE days in wear that is not PE uniform. Please ensure that children have a plain white T-shirt and black shorts or tracksuit bottoms. We may ask children to change into any spare PE that we have in school if they do not come to school dressed appropriately.

Monday: Y3, Y6

Tuesday: Y5, 6L, 6G, 6R

Wednesday: Y4, 5B

Thursday: Y3, 4B, 5E, 5K, 6O

Friday: 4J, 4CB, 4T, 5W

PE lessons for next academic year will start w/c 08.09.25. PE days for each class will be added to the first newsletter of the term which will be sent out w/c 01.09.25

Please remember that children must remove earrings to participate in PE lessons. Taping over earrings is not permitted.

PE kit is black joggers / shorts and a black hoodie or sweatshirt with a white T shirt along with trainers. We expect that children will either wear one of the black John Ray logo hoodies from our supplier or a plain black hoodie/sweatshirt and plain black joggers on the two days a week that your child has PE.

CASHBACK WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE

The Friends of JRI and JRJ have created a cash back account through **Easy Fundraising**. This is a fantastic way to raise much needed extra funds to support both schools.

The link below can be used for you to register:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/47ha4n/>

Once registered, for ease, you can download the app. Every time you shop from the app, across over 4000 online retailers, our schools earn cash back. It's free to join and includes top names like EBay, Argos, Iceland and John Lewis. You can share this link with friends and family members too. A letter with more information can be found on our [website](#).

Safeguarding

Are you worried about a child?

As a school, we consider safeguarding to be a priority. We welcome parents and carers talking openly to us about their concerns for the safeguarding of children and families. **Remember, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** If you have any concerns about a child, you can contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads via the school office. Please ask to speak to Karen Harrison, Rachel Cottee or Meriel Keegan and specify that you have a safeguarding concern.

If you are worried about a child or young person, you can call the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000). If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

Children can call [Childline](tel:08001111) at any time on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)



National Online Safety: What parents and carers need to know about AI enabled scams

AI isn't just transforming the way we learn and work, it's also reshaping the tactics scammers use online. From generating convincing phishing emails to fabricating influencer videos, criminals are using AI to make their scams more convincing than ever. Young people, who often embrace new tech quickly, can be especially vulnerable.

The guide highlights several AI-enabled dangers – including romance scams, deepfake audio and video impersonations, and fake job offers – and explains how to spot and report them. With clear tips for verifying content, thinking critically, and using trusted platforms, it's essential reading for parents and educators to help young people stay one step ahead of the scammers.

CLASS TEACHERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES

We understand that for many people email is a quick and efficient way of communicating and we are therefore happy to provide class teachers' email addresses. Although email is a quick and easy way for parents to communicate with staff, matters that require urgent attention should be communicated via the school office. Staff are not expected to respond to emails after 5pm, during weekends/holidays or when off work due to sickness. A parental agreement relating to email communication with teachers is available from the school office or on our website under the communication tab. **Please note: Miss O'Sullivan now has a new email address.**

Year 3	Year 4
3C: cwaspe1@compassps.uk 3D: dcasey@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	4B: wnicolls@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk
Year 5	Year 6
5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5K: kbrighton@compassps.uk 5W: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@compassps.uk	6G: ngibson@compassps.uk 6L: jlarbalestier@compassps.uk 6O: cosullivan1@compassps.uk 6R: rroberts@compassps.uk

Please contact class teachers in the first instance to resolve any issues. Should you feel you need to escalate the issue, please contact:

Miss Cottee (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y5 or Y6 – rcottee@compassps.uk

Mrs Breen (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y3 or Y4 – kbreen@compassps.uk

RECENT LETTERS INCLUDING NEWSLETTERS – MANY OF OUR LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

All communication will be sent through Bromcom. Please ensure that you have given us a current email address. Issues with Bromcom communication should be emailed [to jrcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:tojrcontact@compassps.uk)

12.11.24 Letter from UKHSA and ECC: Circulation of measles

19.11.24 Adverse weather plan

27.11.24 Alec Hunter Taster Sessions for Year 5 Pupils (Y5 only)

06.01.25 HappyDays School Photography Subscriptions (All) - deadline to sign up 20.01.25

06.01.25 National Child Measurement Programme (Y6 only)

08.01.25 Hemisphere pupil survey (Y5 and Y6 only)

09.01.25 Support Sessions for Families (All)

14.01.25 Teaching arrangements for 4B (4B only)

22.01.25 KEGS Open Day Events (Y5 boys only)

27.01.25 Y5 day trip- letter to express interest

29.01.25 Leavers Hoodies (Y6 only)

04.03.25 [Colchester Zoo Trip 20th June 2025 \(Y3 only\)](#)

22.04.25 Ofsted report publication

02.05.25 Sports Day

06.06.25 [Mersea 2026 – Year 5 only](#)

06.06.25 [Multi School Council Trip](#) – Invite only

19.06.25 [Key Stage 2 District Sports 25th June 2025](#) – Invite only

25.06.25 [NOFS festival](#) – Invite only

30.06.25 [Year 6 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y6 only)

30.06.25 [Year 5 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y5 only)

30.06.25 [Year 4 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y4 Only)

01.07.25 [Year 3 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y3 Only)

01.07.25 [Colour run](#) 10th July 2025 (All year groups)

09.07.25 [Year 6 pizza day](#) (y6 only)

Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)

[Please see the website for the term dates](#)

Summer Term 2025

15.07.24 Y6 production to parents 1:45 and 4:30pm 6L and 6G
 16.07.25 Open afternoon drop in for current parents *from* 3:30pm – 4.30pm
 17.07.25 Y6 production to parents 1:45 and 4:30pm 6O and 6R
 18.07.25 Last day of term

Academic diary dates for 2025-26

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<p>03.09.25 Children return to school 12.09.25 Secondary school admissions open (Y6 only) TBC 15.09.25 After school clubs start 17.09.25 Meet the teacher 3:30-4:30 22.09.25 Y6 meeting 5pm (Mersea and Y6 information) 26.09.25 Individual photos (<i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i>) 15.10.25 Enhanced one planning for specific children 15.10.25- SEND tea and chat 27.10.25 Half term week 31.10.25 Secondary school admissions close 04.11.25 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00 05.11.25 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30 08.11.25 Open morning for new parents 9:30-11:30 14.11.25 Children in need (non – uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation) 24.11.25 last week for after school clubs 15.12.25 SEN tea and chat 16.12.25 Y4 and Y6 Christmas dinner day (<i>children in Y4 / 6 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory</i>) 17.12.25 Y3 and Y5 Christmas dinner day (<i>children in Y3 / 3 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory</i>)</p>	<p>05.01.26 Non Pupil day 06.01.26 Children return to school 12.01.26 After school clubs start 03.02.26 SEND tea and chat 04.02.26 Enhanced one planning for specific children 05.02.26 In class individual photos (<i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i>) 09.02.26-15.02.25 Children's mental health week 10.02.26 Safer internet day 16.02.26 Half term week 05.03.26 World book day (<i>Children are invited to dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book</i>) 09.03.26 Science week 11.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00 12.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30 23.03.26 Last week for clubs 24.03.26 Y5 and Y6 to walk to St Michael's church for an Easter service (<i>This takes place in school time and is for staff and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking</i>) 27.03.26- SEND tea and chat 27.03.26 Last day of term</p>	<p>13.04.26 Children return to school 20.04.26 First week of after school clubs 11.05.26 SATs week 20.05.26 Sports day (<i>Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45</i>) 25.05.26 Half term week 01.06.26 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only) 02.06.26 Enhanced and focussed one plans 03.06.26 reserve sports day in case of poor weather 08.06.26 - 10.06.26 Mersea residential for Y6 22.06.26 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates) 29.06.26 Last week of after school clubs 01.07.26 Class photos (<i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i>) 09.07.26 Annual reports sent out 30.06.26 Children to spend time with new teacher 08.07.26 Open afternoon 3:30-4:30 14.07.26 Y6 production for 6L and 6R 1:30 and 4:30 15.07.26 Y6 production for 6O and 6G 1:30 and 4:30 16.07.26 Last day of term for children</p>

18.12.25 Y3 and Y4 to walk to St Michael's church for a Christmas service *(This takes place in school time and is for staff and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking)*

19.12.25 Last day of term

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.

